

# Motor Vehicle Ownership Transfer: **GENERAL INFORMATION**

City and County of Honolulu • Department of Customer Services

## General Information:

**All vehicles on Oahu are required to have a valid Registration, Certificate of Title, and State of Hawaii Safety Inspection Certificate:**

- **Registration** is held by the registered owner of the vehicle and kept in the vehicle.
  - A valid Certificate of Registration shows that all vehicle taxes and fees have been paid and the vehicle is allowed to be legally driven on Oahu.
- **Title** is held by the lienholder, usually a bank or finance company, or the registered owner if they have paid the loan in full or did not finance the vehicle purchase.
  - Titles are used when selling, buying or making changes to the registered or legal/lienholder on the title.
  - Once a title is used to transfer ownership, a new registration will be printed to reflect the same changes made to the title.
- **Safety Inspections** are required annually, except for new cars that receive an initial two-year safety check and then annually thereafter.
  - In addition to the safety inspection emblem that must be displayed on the back of the vehicle, the safety inspection report must be kept in the vehicle with the current Certificate of Registration.
  - When renewing the registration or transferring the title to a new registered owner, if the city's computerized records indicate an expired safety check, the owner must present proof of current safety inspection.

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